Pictorial PATUXENT

UNITED STATES

NAVAL AIR TEST CENTER

NAVAL AIR STATION

Patuxent River, Maryland

1 November 1945

Compiled by the Office of Public Information,
NAS, Patuxent River, Md.

INTRODUCTION

From deep forest, on rolling farm land in St. Mary's County in Southern Maryland, the Navy has created the Naval Air Test Center where aircraft and aviation gear are tested.

Long dreamed of by pilots and engineers of the Bureau of Aeronautics, the Test Center gives the Navy a place where all major testing is performed. Authorized only a few days after the attack on Pearl Harbor, the U. S. Naval Air Station, Patuxent River, Maryland, was started when ground was broken in March 1942. It was commissioned 1 April 1943.

The station is situated on a 6800-acre tract of land at the mouth of the Patuxent River and boasts a nine-mile coastline along the river and the protected waters of Chesapeake Bay. It has three conveniently located seaplane basins.

There are three huge runways—including one 10,000 feet long, and a fourth runway under construction—and large hangars, shops, laboratories and many supporting activities.

In addition to serving as the Navy's Aviation Test Center, the air station is headquarters for the Atlantic Wing of the Naval Air Transport Service Command. Air Transport Squadrons, 1, 8, and 9, have been located here and Patuxent has served as the East Coast terminus for flights to England, Europe and South America.

By direction of the Secretary of the Navy on 16 June 1945, the U. S. Naval Air Test Center was established at NAS, Patuxent River, Maryland to accomplish the program of tests, including coordination of supporting services and facilities.

Testing the Navy's planes and aeronautical equipment is Patuxent River's mission. It is a task which all who have served here have assisted materially. This book, PICTORIAL PATUXENT, is a photographic record of Sailors, WAVES, Officers and civilians who helped win the war through their service here.

CAPTAIN J. D. BARNER, USN.
Commander, Naval Air Test Center.

Captain J. D. Barner, USN, assumed the duties of Commander, Naval Air Test Center, at Naval Air Station, Patuxent River, Maryland, on Saturday 11 August 1945.

Captain Barner, whose home is at nearby Chevy Chase, Maryland, came up through the ranks, having served in the Navy since November 1907. He was advanced to Ensign after having served three enlistments.

After 14 strenuous years with the fleet, Captain Barner entered Naval aviation. He took his flight training at Pensacola, Fla. Just prior to his duty here, he was Commanding Officer of the famous aircraft carrier, Shangri-La.

CAPTAIN E. A. HANNEGAN, USN
Commanding Officer,
Naval Air Station, Patuxent River, Md.

Captain E. A. Hannegan, USN, is the third Commanding Officer of the Naval Air Station, having assumed command 15 June 1945 following an extensive tour in combat as Air Officer of the USS Langley and later as Executive Officer of that carrier.

A native of Washington, D. C., Captain Hannegan entered the Naval Academy in 1924. While a Midshipman he was captain of the football team in 1927, captain of the baseball team in 1928 and, as a first classman, he was awarded the Thompson Trophy as the Midshipman contributing most to the promotion of athletics at the Academy that year.

CAPTAIN A. P. STORRS, USN

Captain A. P. Storrs, USN, was NAS Patuxent River's second Commanding Officer. He assumed command on 5 January 1944 and was relieved on 15 June 1945.

Captain Storrs entered the Naval Academy in 1919 from his home at Owego, New York. He was graduated June 7, 1923, and entered flight training 1 August 1925.

He helped organize and flew with Navy stunt teams, the Sea Hawks and the Three Flying Fishes, in his early days as a naval aviator.

Prior to reporting to Patuxent, Captain Storrs was in charge of Naval operations and construction at Kiska and Attu.

CAPTAIN W. T. RASSIEUR, USN

First "Skipper" of NAS, Patuxent River, was Captain W. T. Rassieur, USN, who was here as early as November 1942, six months before the station was commissioned.

Captain Rassieur enlisted in the Navy from his home at St. Louis, Mo., in 1918, and won an appointment to the Naval Academy the following year. He entered Naval Aviation at Pensacola in 1925 and did post graduate work in aeronautical engineering at the Naval Academy and the California Institute of Technology.

He was "Skipper" of a Patrol Squadron and on the staff of Com Pat Wing TWO before coming to Patuxent River.

COMMANDER R. N. SHARP, USN

Commander R. N. Sharp, USN, of Johnson City, Tenn., became Executive Officer of NAS, Patuxent River, on 2 August 1945. He was appointed to the Naval Academy in 1926 and graduated in 1930.

Before coming here, Commander Sharp was navigator of the new USS Yorktown and served as Operations Officer for a Fast Carrier Task Group. He was awarded the Legion of Merit and the Silver Star Medal for his outstanding combat service.

COMMANDER T. B. CLARK, USN

Commander T. B. Clark, USN, was the station's first Executive Officer, serving here from December 1942 until June 1945. He entered the Naval Academy from Warrenton, Virginia, in 1923.

At the outbreak of the war, Commander Clark was "Skipper" of a Patrol Squadron at Pearl Harbor. His was the first squadron to operate in the New Hebrides area early in the war. He participated in aerial searches for the Japs at Midway, Salamaua and Lae.

CAPTAIN EDWARD W. ROUNDS, USNR
Board of Inspection and Survey

No story of Patuxent River would be complete without mention of Captain E. W. Rounds, Board of Inspection and Survey Representative here. He has been connected with the Bureau of Aeronautics as an officer or civilian engineer since 1919. In the early days of construction of the station, he commuted from Washington, D. C., to watch the progress on the project in his capacity as Officer-in-Charge of the development of the Flight Test Center, Patuxent River, Maryland.

COMMISSIONING DAY, 1 April 1945—The late Vice Adm. McCain (left) congratulates Capt. W. T. Rassieur. The crew hears orders read. (above).

PATUXENT PLANK OWNERS are shown in the large picture. Of the sixty-odd officers here on Commissioning Day, eleven were still aboard at the end of the war. Inset shows the crew with bowed heads as the Chaplain prayed.

First plane and hangar and first 6 officers here; (l to r) Pop Pine, John Carmen, C. Frank, Captain Rassieur, Frank Sivils and Dr. Wible.

First three enlisted men here were Banse, Deckstead and Chief McCord, all of the Supply department.

First civilian workers were Price, Bradburn, Mattingly, Tucker, Larsen and Balto, all of Public Works.

MAIN GATE as it looked in November 1942 (top pictu re) and as it appeared in September 1945 (bottom view).

CHRISTMAS CAROLERS serenaded Capt. Rassieur and his family on Christmas Eve 1943.

PATUXENT'S FIRST SKIPPER, Capt. W. T. Rassieur, was relieved by Captain A. P. Storrs at a ceremony before all hands on 5 January 1944.

BARRACKS GROUPS 1 and 2 as they looked during the winter of 1943 when the first snow fell. Inset shows the Married Enlisted Men's Quarters on the station.

WAR HOUSING PROJECT, Lexington Park, while still under construction in May 1943.

ADMINISTRATION building as it looked before extension was added.

— on trailer no. 17.

WOOD ARCH HANGAR used by Armament Test is shown, upper left, while still under construction in June 1942. Lower picture is an aerial view of the Patuxent River USO building, placed in use shortly after V-J Day.

CONCRETE ARCH HANGARS like the one above were used by Flight Test seaplane, Electronics Test, Operations, Service Test, Tactical Test and VR-1.

SEAPLANE HANGAR used by VR-8 had a structural steel arch. Note small control tower.

NAVY CHAPEL at Patuxent River stands where the old St. Nicholas Church, founded by the Jesuit Priests, once stood. Inset is small chapel in the main building.

SECRETARY OF THE NAVY Forrestal and party watch aerial demonstration here.

INSTITUTE OF AERONAUTICAL SCIENCES met here in October 1944.

SECNAV Forrestal strikes a typical pose as he and Senator Ferguson watch and listen to a description of "tactics" by Commander Paul Ramsey.

Representatives of the Chance Vought Division, United Aircraft Corp., are shown beside an F4U. These men attended the joint Army-Navy Fighter Conference here.

Planes being gassed on the flight line at the Army-Navy Fighter Conference.

Leading Navy, Army and civilian pilots attending the Fighter Conference attended a banquet in the Wardroom at BOQ 1.

Great Britain's Royal Navy and Royal Air Force Pilots attended the Fighter Conference here, top photo. Below, civilian, Navy and Army pilots check flight schedules.

ON MARS DAY, Senators Ellender, Robertson and Brewster flew in the original Mars flying boat. They are shown here talking with Lieut. Dumont of VR-8.

While Asst. Secretary of the Navy for Air, Artemus L. Gates, third from left, visited here many times. Shown with him are Rear Admiral W. J. Carter, Commander T. B. Clark and Captain Benny Wright.

FRENCH AIR MISSION, headed by Gen. Henri Ziegler, was here in August 1945.

UNITED NATIONS Air Attachés were here for an air demonstration in April 1945.

UNDER SECNAV Artemus L. Gates, second from left, is pictured with Vice Admiral Aubrey W. Fitch, Asst. SecNav (Air) John L. Sullivan and Captain Hannegan while watching an aerial demonstration here in July 1945.

Official party at Patuxent with Under SecNav Gates was photographed on the steps of the Operations building at the close of the program.

FIRING of machine guns and rockets from planes on the ground was part of every demonstration of Naval aerial might staged here.

ARMY-NAVY E AWARD was presented to the Consolidated Engineering Company and its sub contractors at ceremonies here on October 16, 1943.

George Dederer received the first Civilian Service Award presented here in December 1944.

SecNav War Bond Pennant was raised over the Public Works building by Larsen and Balto.

Meritorious Civilian Service Awards went to Mattingly, Thomas, Dodge and Britton.

Beneficial Suggestions paid off in cash for these workers—Souder, Tephabock and Tuinman.

INDEPENDENCE DAY WAR BOND RALLY, July 4, 1944.

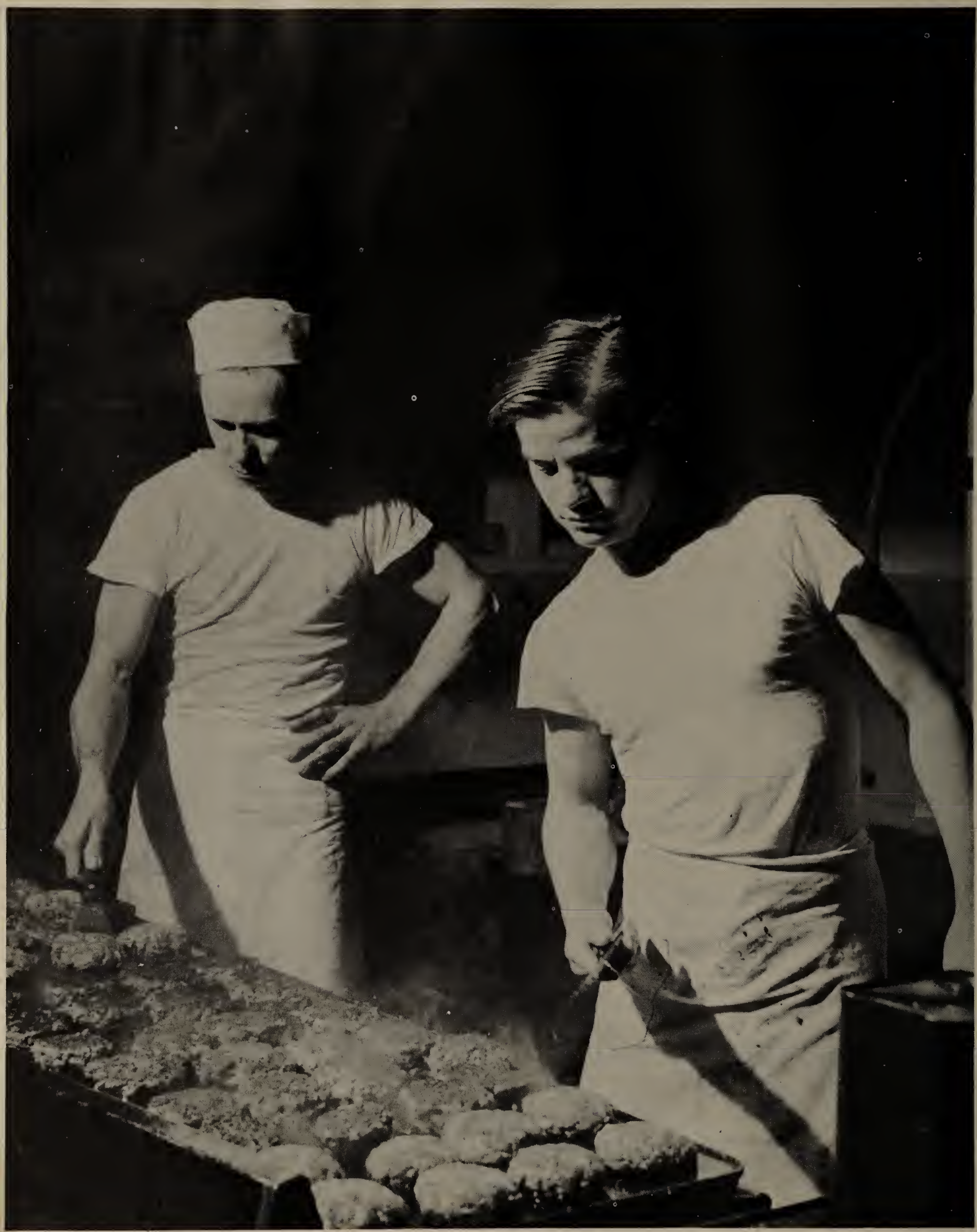
ADVISORY COMMITTEE of the Cooperative Association shown at the cafeteria. In the picture are Larsen, Hutson, Lloyd, Lieut. Kingsley, Flanagan and Caldwell.

VOCATIONAL TRAINING for civilian employees offered opportunities to both workers and supervisors to learn more about their jobs.

E. E. Condon, head of mechanical refrigeration, explains a drawing to fellow workers in the Public Works department.

SUPERVISORS MEETINGS were held with department heads. Here Comdr. Harry Graves, Supply Officer, confers with civilian workers in his department.

NEW FIRE HOUSE was placed in use in October 1944, top picture. Inset shows some of the Transportation Division's new buses. Bottom picture shows personnel of the Heavy Duty Section of the Transportation Division of Public Works.



COOKING THE CREW'S CHOW

IN THE CHOW LINE

Chicken for Sunday Dinner.

Serving ' the Chiefs plates.

FAMILIAR SCENES at chow time are the lines of sailors and WAVES pouring into the chow hall and the crew eating at the long tables. Inset—butcher at work.

FRANK KNOX SCHOOL, named for the late Secretary of the Navy, is operated by the St. Mary's County School Board.

SPRING FESTIVAL was held by the children on the Frank Knox school grounds. Inset shows school safety patrolman helping a pupil cross the road as Marine sentry stops cars.

OPENING DAY OF SCHOOL. The auditorium was packed with pupils and parents.

FESTIVAL QUEEN was crowned at ceremonies on the school grounds 6 June 1945.

SCHOOL CAFETERIA served hot lunches to the children and teachers at noontime.

MUSIC CLASS for pupils of the Bureau of Aeronautics-owned school.

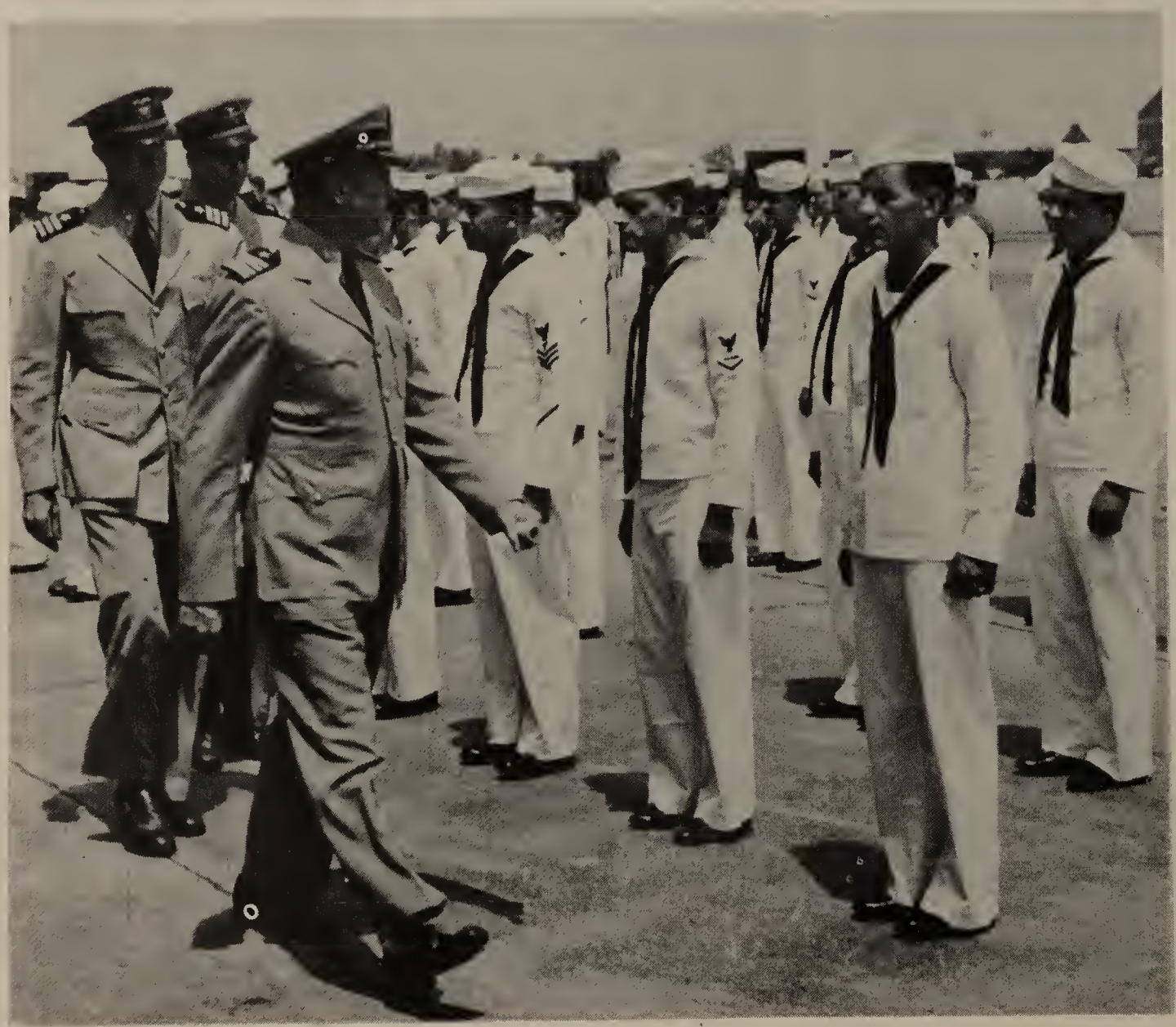
CHANGE OF COMMAND for the Naval Air Station took place 15 June 1945 when Captain A. P. Storrs was relieved as Commanding Officer by Captain E. A. Hannegan.

AERIAL VIEW OF INSPECTION 1 SEPTEMBER 1945.

INSPECTIONS

ALL HANDS INSPECTION

15 MARCH 1945



VR-9 COMMISSIONING CEREMONY was held here 1 June 1944. Comdr. J. T. S. Heist is shown above reading his orders as squadron "Skipper."

Following the ceremony Capt. C. K. Wildman, then Com NATSLant, inspected VR-9 crew.

NATS Lant Command Changed 23 Feb 1945 when Captain James E. Dyer relieved Capt. Wildman.

VR-8 Command Change took place in January 1945 when Commander Harry Canady relieved Commander J. C. Toth as squadron Commanding Officer.

VR-1 Command Change took place on 2 June 1945 when Commander Gus Sommermeyer was relieved by Comdr. Jack Durham.

Hospital Planes of NATS VR-1 Squadron carried the injured and sick from distant points to Navy Medical Centers.

MISS PATUXENT of 1945, Gail Collier, presents VR-1 pilot R. C. Boswell with a $1,000 Bond on completion of NATS 1,000 Atlantic crossing in June 1945.

MARS COMES HOME. Crewmen who flew with the first Mars are at the hatch of the flying boat as she returns to VR-8 at Patuxent after service in the Pacific Fleet.

Below—the Mars lands in the Patuxent River.

SHIP'S SERVICE fountain is a familiar sight to Patuxent men and women.

SHIP'S SERVICE galley where meals were prepared for the customers.

MAGAZINE COUNTER at Ship's Service.

Lt Smith

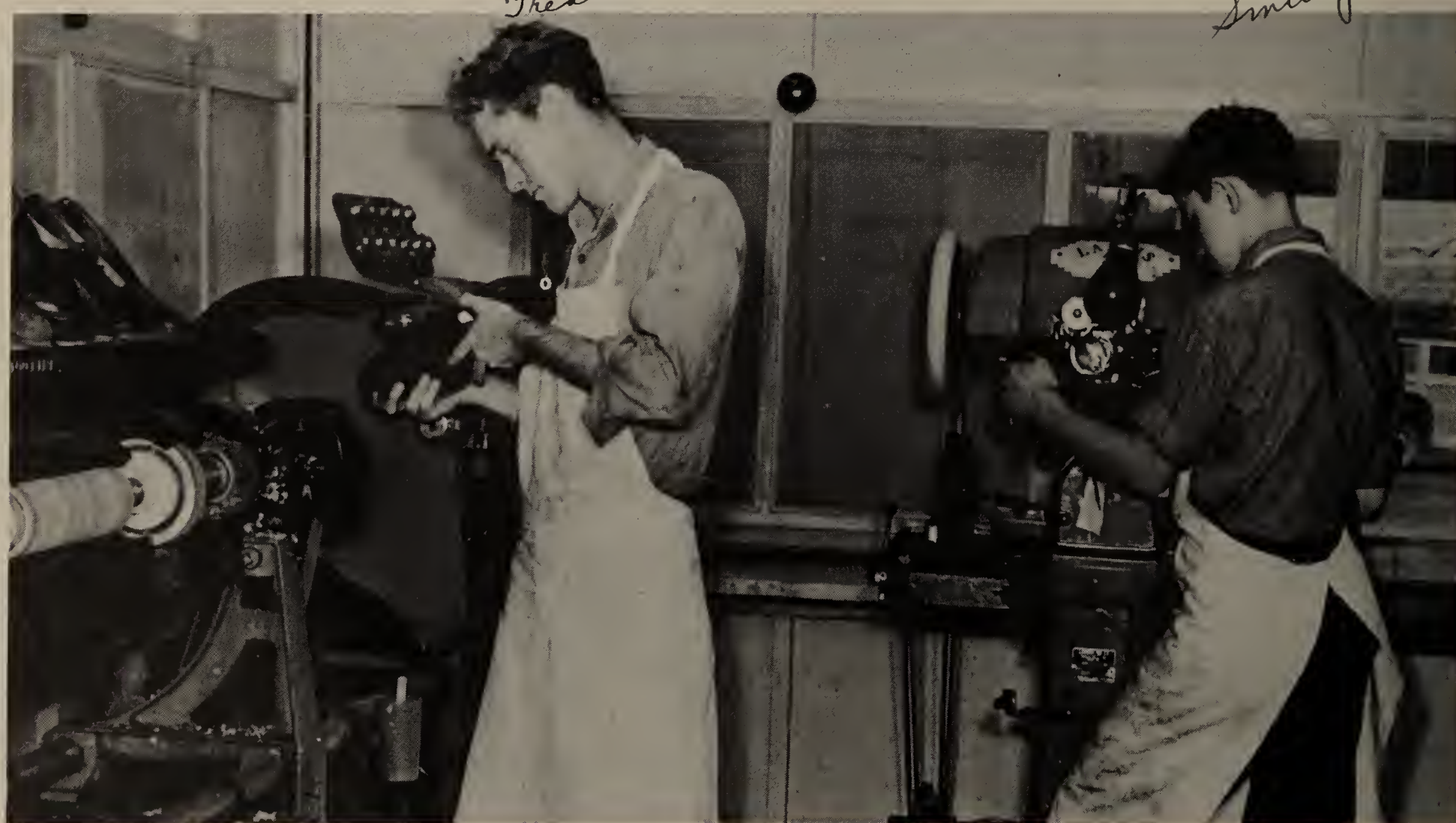
LAUNDRY STORE.

Tiny

CHRISTMAS SPECIALS

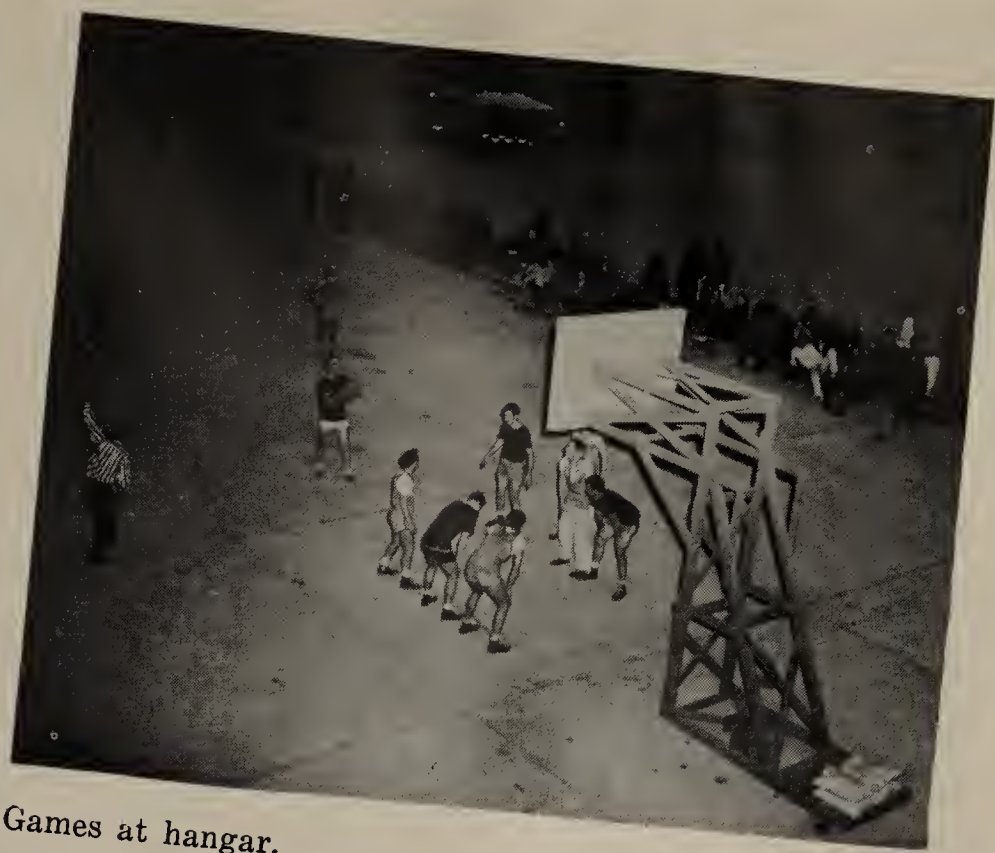
BARBER SHOP

BOOK AND TOY COUNTER



COBBLER SHOP

Officers basketball team.



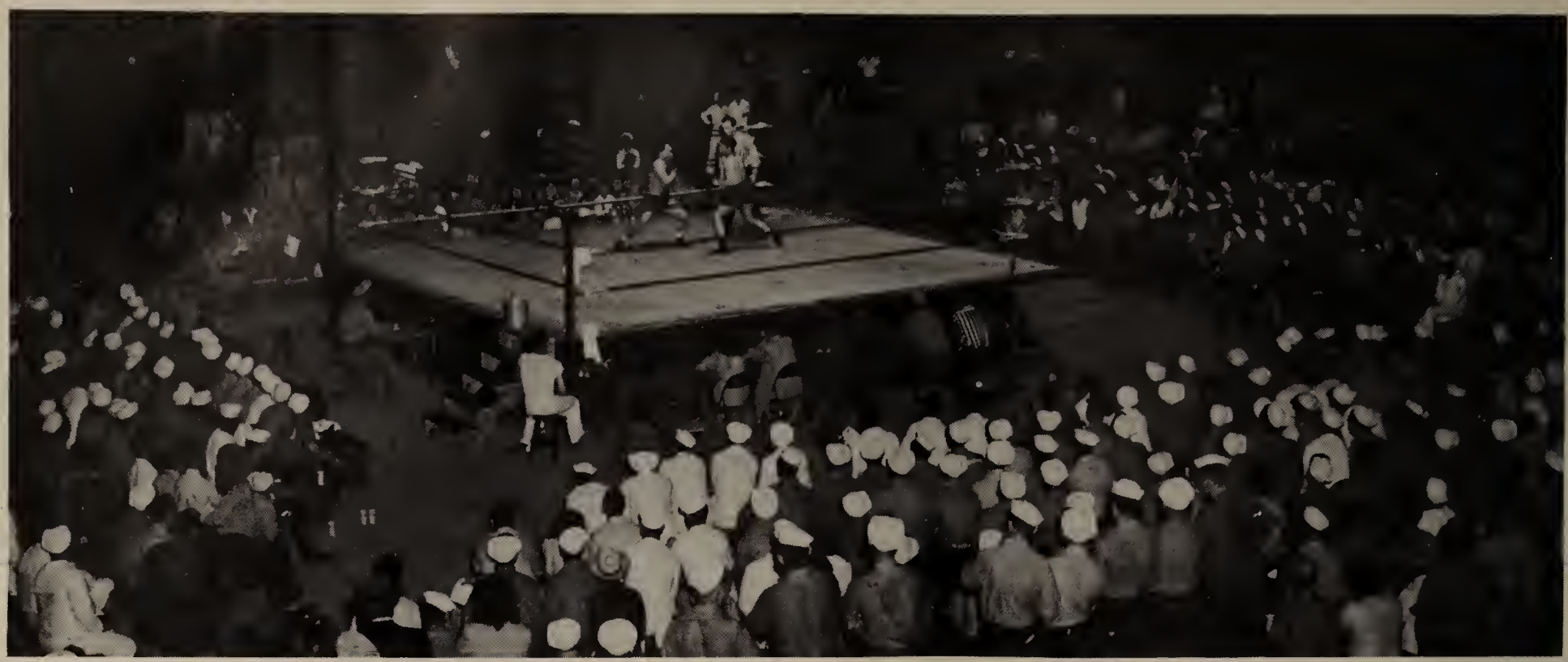
Games at hangar.

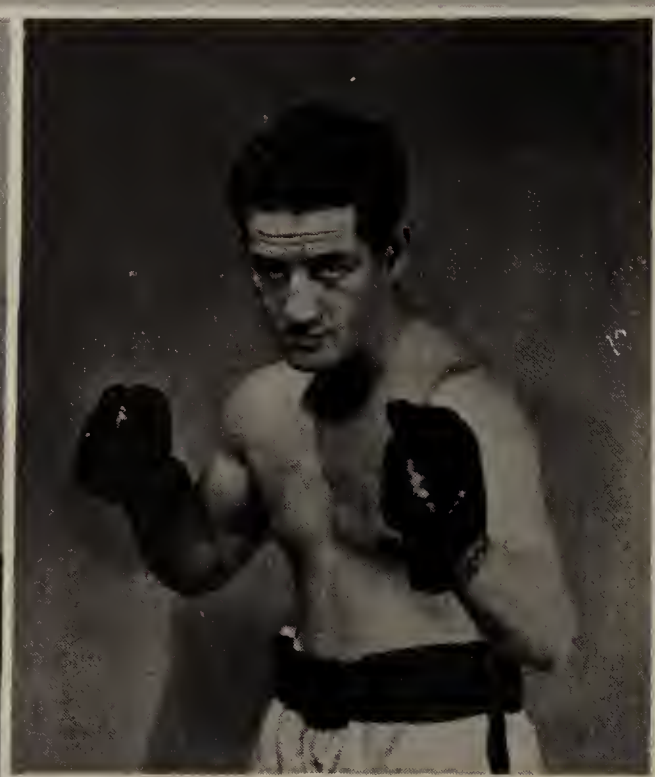
Armament Test—National softball league champs.

VR-1 Championship Team.

Coast Guard baseball team.

Marines Cage Club.





BOXING SEASON

(Top) Fight night in the hangar. Inset) Gym in tarpaper alley. Fighters, left to right, Fabian, Sprotzer and Wallis. Fabian and Wallis were Golden Gloves champs.

BASEBALL CHAMPIONS for two straight years were the Electronics Test players above.

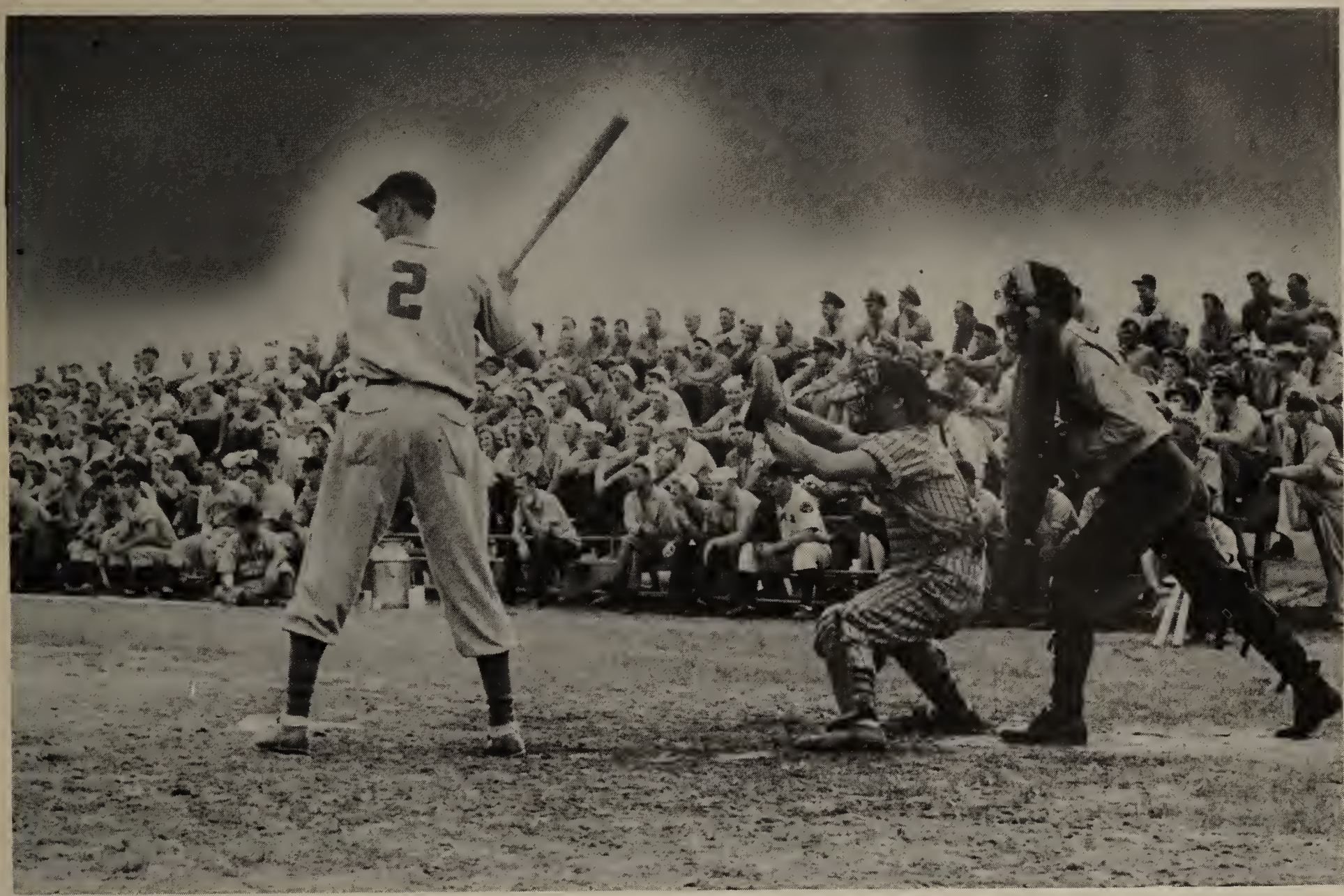
ELECTRONICS TEST nine gets trophy for winning in 1944.

Pitcher Johnson fields the ball and puts out Miller at first.

FLIGHT TEST baseball team—runner-up for the title in 1944 and 1945.

Stands were filled during playoff.

Flight Test's Petrino lays down a bunt.



BATTER UP—Miller is at the plate for Electronics Test in the playoff series in September 1945. Bottom picture shows the record crowd that saw the game.

ACTION SHOTS from the 1945 baseball season.

1944 SOFTBALL CHAMPIONS.

VR-8's champion softballers receive the trophy from Lt. (jg) Mallouf.

OPENING DAY of the 1945 softball season. VR-1 vs. VR-8.

VR-1 won the American Softball League and the Center title in 1945.

NIGHT TOUCH FOOTBALL was played by sports teams at Patuxent in the Fall of 1944. The officers and Coast Guard teams are shown above during a game.

VR-1 won the first football title. Here Comdr. Sommermeyer accepts the trophy from Captain Storrs.

BARRACKS RECREATION ROOM in the basement of barracks 448.

RECREATION BUILDING where pool, ping-pong and table games were located.

ELECTRONICS TEST'S bowlers won the title in the WAVES and Nurses league.

SERVICE TEST's bowling team won the Enlisted Men's Pin Championship.

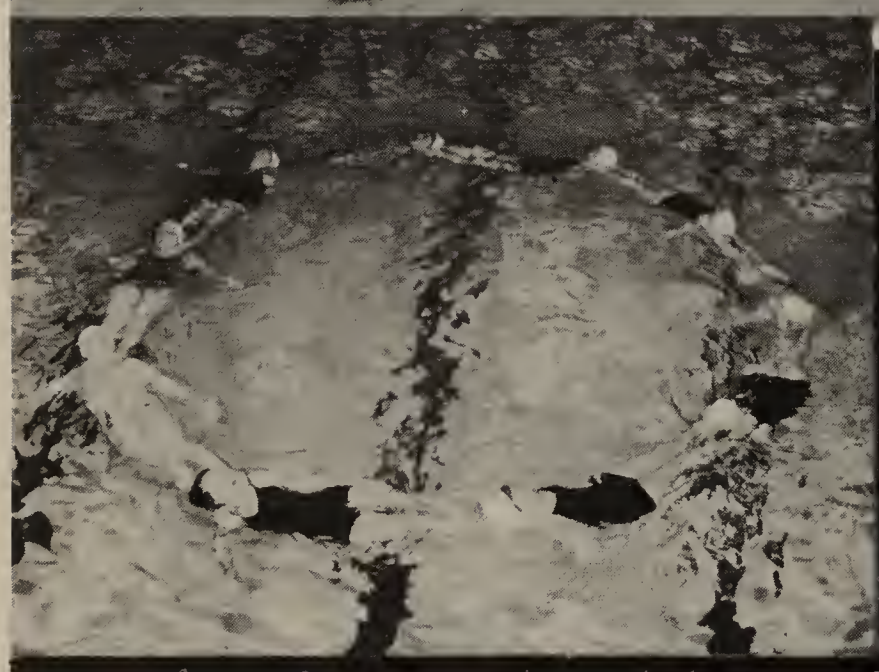
LEARNING WATER SAFETY at the swimming pool in the Drill Hall.

BOWLING ALLEYS in the Recreation building were heavily patronized.

SWIMMING TEAM WORKS OUT in the pool at the Drill Hall. Inset shows Don Butler, Roy Stickney, Charles Christner, Bob Tives, Coach Lundy, Gene Russell and Shaw.

SERVICE TEST team won the first half of the 1945 baseball season.

LIFE GUARDS PATROLLED THE BEACH.



WATER BALLET staged by the girls of the Trident Swimming Team of Washington, D. C., was a big hit at the opening of the Drill Hall pool. Typical scene at the Drill Hall pool is shown in the large picture.

FINAL INSPECTION for the Coast Guard Detachment at Patuxent River before the unit was demobilized was the occasion when these pictures were taken.

Maj. Floyd C. Manner—CO, Marine Barracks.

Majors Leland and Whitman—former CO's of Patuxent Marines.

Marines who fought at Iwo Jima came to Patuxent for duty.

NAVY CROSS was awarded to Pfc. Dale C. Lyth (center) for stopping a Jap tank counter attack on Peleliu Island.

OPERATIONS TOWER is a familiar landmark at Patuxent River.

OPERATIONS CREW EXERCISING near the hangar. Tar paper alley in the background.

SICK BAY PATIENTS pose for a gag shot as the "Patuxent Castettes."

DISPENSARY PERSONNEL inspection by Captain Julian Love, Senior Medical Officer.

PERSONNEL OF THE DISPENSARY AT INSPECTION.

GRAY LADIES of the American Red Cross deliver gifts to the sick.

FIRING PRACTICE at small arms range.

BAKERS at the galley bakery shop.

INTERIOR OF THE DRILL HALL where movies are shown, stage shows presented and where athletic courts are located.

PHOTOGRAPHERS shown here in a montage produced by Paul Heisler, PhoM2c, were responsible for the photographs necessary for the completion of aviation test work at Patuxent and for the pictures used in this publication.

ELECTRONICS TEST sailor makes a voice recording using a wire recorder.

AEROLOGICAL OFFICER prepares chart of future winds and weather conditions.

F7F TIGERCAT turns up in front of Service Test's hangar.

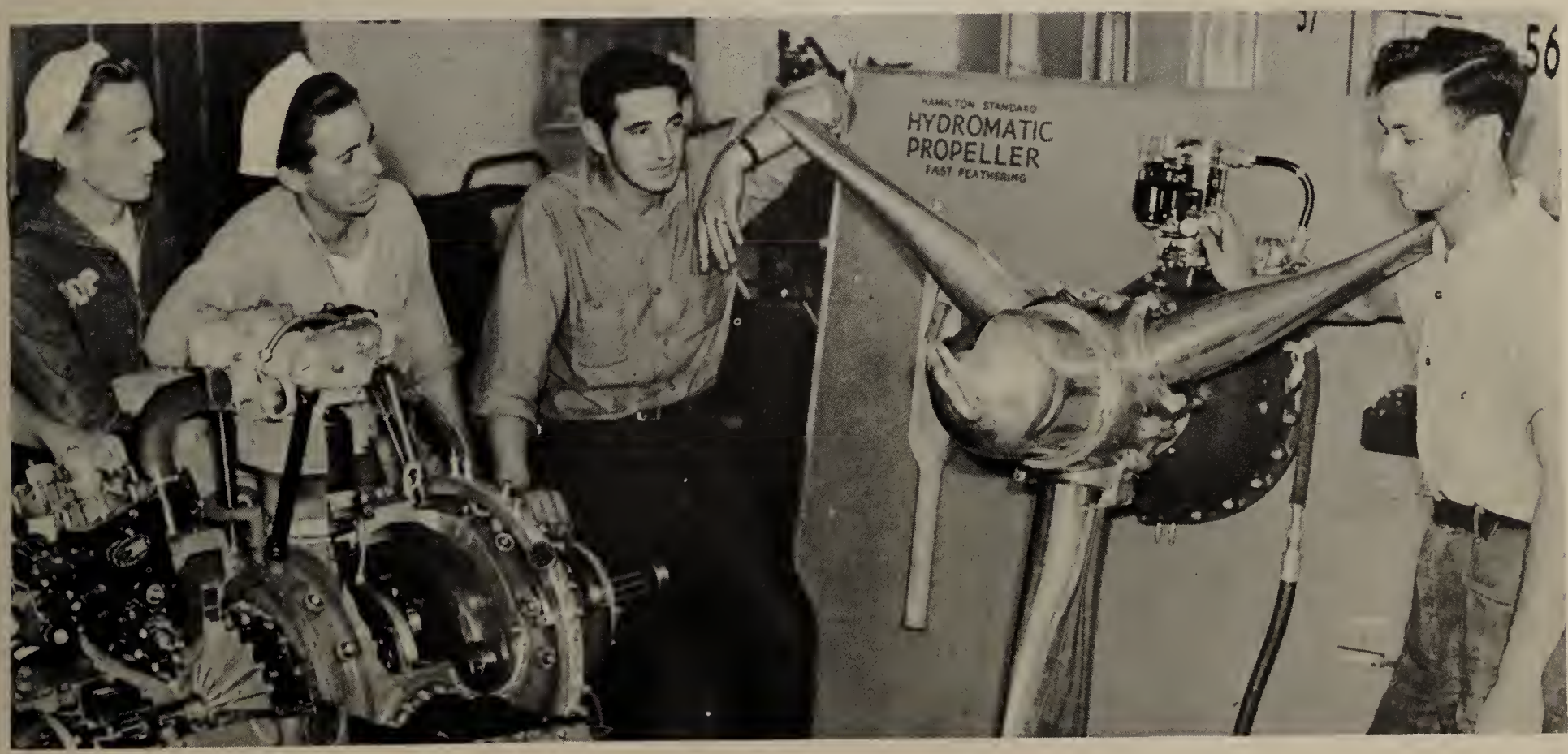
HYDRAULIC SYSTEM of a PB4Y is studied by a class of Aviation Machinists' Mates.

NOISE INTERFERENCE is being located by two Aviation Radiomen.

Painters at Test Facilities.

Metal Shop crew at Flight Test.

NIGHT CHECK CREW repairing the engine of a PV.



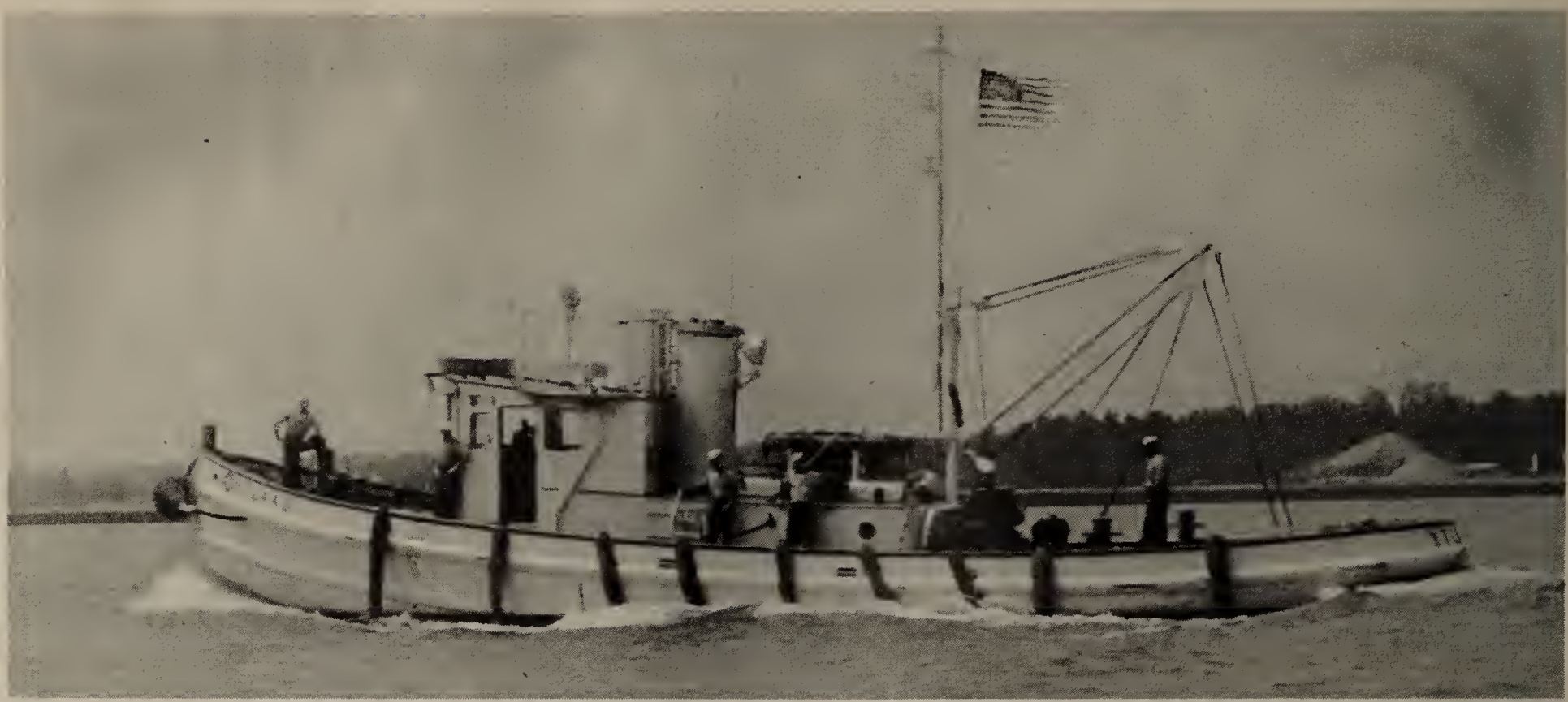
Aviation Mechs studying propellers in a Navy mobile classroom.

Personnel of the Print Shop.

Line Mechs at the Flight Test landplane hangar.

OPERATIONS' CRASH CREW developing fire fighting technique.

Sailors and WAVES take a "hop" in the low pressure chamber.



YARD TUG (above) operated by the First Lieutenant's department. Personnel of the department are shown in front of boathouse number 2.

Ed. Halldorson who designed the cover for "PICTORIAL PATUXENT."

Hacek sharpens a saw blade at carpenter shop.

Sadler repairs a metal vent at the shops.

PERSONNEL OF THE DISBURSING OFFICE.

HELICOPTER hovers over the apron at the Flight Test seaplane hangar.

LINE CREW MEMBERS at Armament Test served together "somewhere in England."

PATUXENT MODEL ENGINEERS won trophies at the Philadelphia Aerial Circus.

Stamps.

PATUXENT TESTER staff, Office of Public Information, compiled Pictorial Patuxent.

PICNIC CROWD at the rodeo on the 4th of July 1944.

PICNICKERS at the Jitterbug Contest, 4th of July 1945.

4th of JULY 1944—Coast Guardmen staged a rodeo at the all hand picnic. Top picture—Grand entry. Bottom picture, Blivins bulldogs a steer.

Top left, Sunday afternoon at the beach; top right, steeplechase; left center, relay racing; right center, playing volleyball; lower left, chow time; lower right, jumping exhibition.

PATUXENT'S FIRST DANCE BAND was composed entirely of volunteers.

TEN NIGHTS IN A BARROOM was presented by actors from Anacostia.

NAVY BAND added much to the enjoyment of events at Patuxent, playing at dances, concerts, Happy Hours and USO stage show presentations.

Left above, USO show dance line.

Right—tug-of-war at crew picnic.

Left center—dance in old auditorium.

Bottom left—dance in the Drill Hall.

Above—Sailors at the library.

CROWD at a stage show presented in the old Ship's Service auditorium.

VOX POP BROADCAST from Patuxent was attended by a large audience.

mrs McAliey.

CHRISTMAS PARTY, 1944—Santa arrived by Helicopter as happy kids cheered.

JUNIOR JIVERS presented a stage show at the Frank Knox School auditorium.

HALLOWE'EN DANCE in the old auditorium was a gala social event.

REFRESHMENT LINE at Ship's Service at the Hallowe'en Dance—1944.

Lt. Merrill

First class of WAVE Flight Orderlies.

Nurses LaMontagne, Josephson and Cooper at the Dispensary Snack Bar.

First WAVE officers here, Ensigns Dermody, Dale, Voight and Gately.

WAVES—pin-up girls—sunning on the grounds behind Barracks 402.

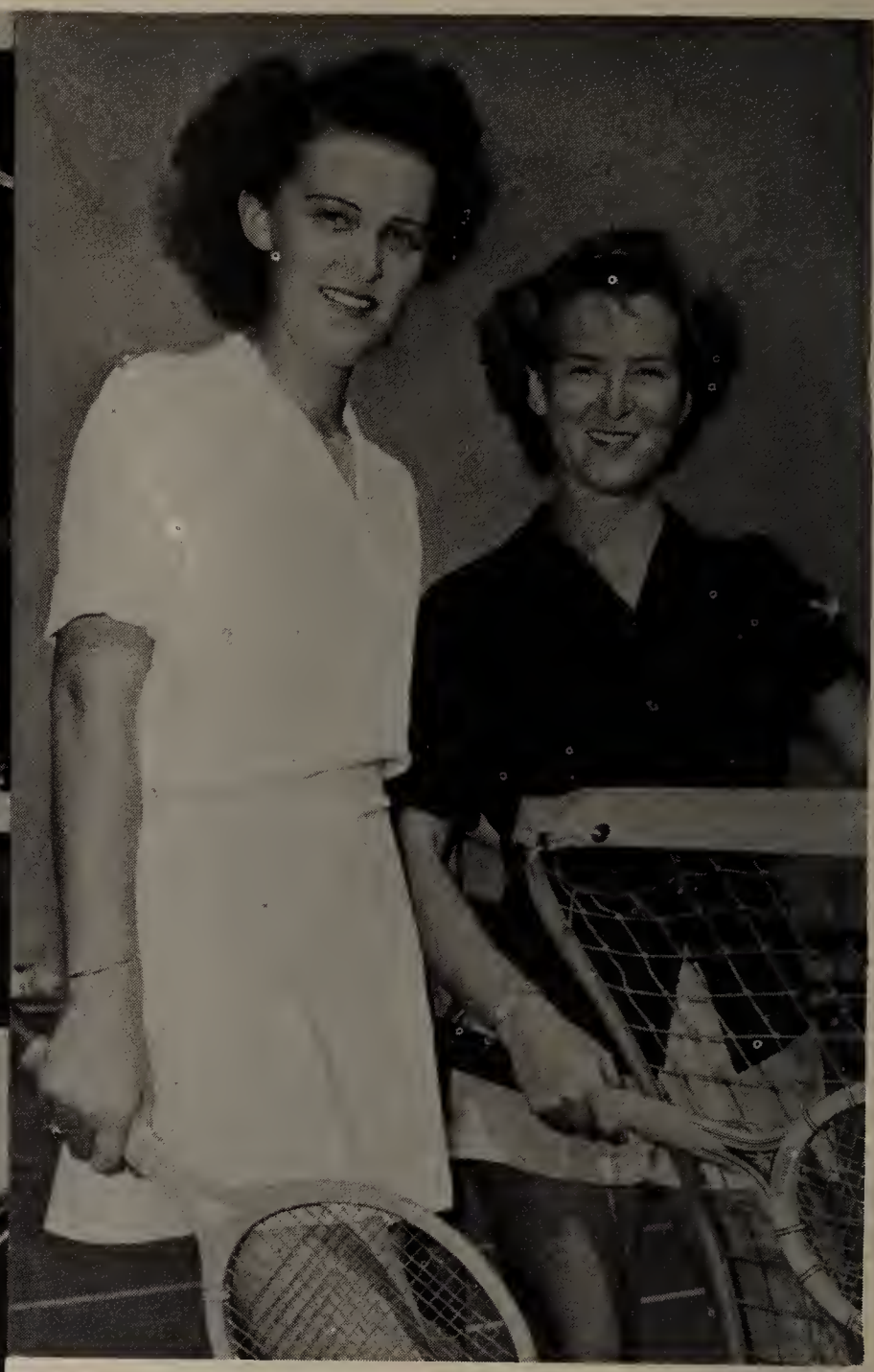
WAVES reporting to Patuxent from boot school in May 1944.

Link Trainer Operator instructs pilot in instrument flying at Electronics Test hangar.

WAVE Pharmacist's Mate assisting dentist at the Patuxent clinic.

WAVE TELEPHONE OPERATORS on duty at the "central" switchboard.

WAVE LAB TECHNICIANS.



WAVES Brissenden and Hall on the tennis courts.

PIE EATING WAVES Pross and Harris.

1st to go overseas—Leicht and Curry.

WAVES' THIRD ANNIVERSARY PARTY, July 30, 1945, WR Representative, Lieut. E. Setze, is assisted by Captain Hannegan in cutting the cake.

BANQUET HALL for the Third Anniversary Party of the WAVES was the chow hall at Galley 1. Food was served by sailor waiters.

WAVE Aviation Machinist's Mate Grablowsky works on a plane.

WAVE Ensign Sheehy operates machine at Electronics Test.

CAPTAIN J. D. BARNER assumed the duties of Commander, Naval Air Test Center 11 August 1945. He is shown above at the microphone reading his orders.

CAPTAIN BARNER was well pleased with the appearance of the Coast Guard horses at his first inspection here.

OFFICERS AND CREW AT PERSONNEL INSPECTION 8 September 1945.

Vernon Cowgill

NAVY DISCHARGE PROGRAM started moving here on 28 August 1945 when 40 men departed for the Separation Center at Bainbridge, Maryland.

PERSONNEL INSPECTION AT THE DRILL HALL 15 September 1945.

VE-DAY was celebrated here with military and civilian personnel attending a program held in VR-8's hangar.

ON VJ-Day personnel attended special Thanksgiving Services at the Chapel.